

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

May 13, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
May 13, 2015
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, Easton, PA. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)
Absent: Mauro (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were seventeen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Brown the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Edinger the April 22, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (5)
Nays: None (0)
Abstain: Warner (1)

RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing Detective Darren Snyder as the Police Officer of the Year.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

82-2015

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The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)
Nays: None (1)

Police Chief Carl Scalzo spoke regarding Det. Snyder's career with the Police Department and the reasons why he was chosen as "Police Officer of the Year".

All Council members congratulated Det. Snyder on this honor, thanked him for his service and dedication to the City and its citizens.

Detective Snyder thanked Council for honoring him.

Detective Snyder was presented with a framed Resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

Ron Oren, 500 Mixsell Street, spoke regarding the naming of Mixsell and the mistake in 1914 when the name was changed to Meixsell Street, and urged Council to correct the mistake.

Mr. Oren was informed that, later in the meeting, an Ordinance would be introduced to change the name from Meixsell to Mixsell Street.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner, the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 11, (Ordinance 5492) Amending Section 285-42, Parking garage fee, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which set fees for the S. Third Street and Pine Street parking garages.

Resolution 83-2015, Amending the language contained in Resolution 89-2014, which amended language as requested by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)
Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

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The following reports were received by Council:

- (a) Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority, December 2014, January 2015 and February 2015 meeting minutes.

Mayor Panto accepted the above reports on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that a Finance Committee was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, the first quarter financial report was given and was discussed and also a new proposed financial software was presented and was discussed with the vendor. He said that another meeting would be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. He also spoke regarding legislation, for later in the meeting, which would amend the 2014 Alpha Building Fund budget, and which would amend Section 285-42, parking garage fees of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that there will be a Economic Development Committee meeting on May 26, 2015 and that Jared Mast would speak to Council regarding the Indoor Farmers Market.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee said that her legislation was discussed at the May 12, 2015 Planning Committee meeting.

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, was absent, but Mayor Panto reported that she would be having a Public Safety Committee meeting on May 26, 2015.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation, for later in the meeting, regarding changing the direction of travel for the 300 block of Spruce Street and the 100 block of S. Bank Street, approving an amendment to an Agreement with Penn DOT to extend the time for completion of the City's work on State Routes 2022 and 2023, for authorizing the filing of an application for Traffic Signal approval, for approving a Lease Agreement with Norfolk Southern for property at Washington Street and S. 4th Street, and for authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an 3-year Agreement with Constellation NewEnergy only for the price per kilowatt hour of electricity. He reported that he would also be having a Public Works committee meeting to discuss Public Works projects.

Dr. Warner asked questions regarding the demolition and repairs in the Pine Street Parking Garage.

Mr. Hopkins said that the jack hammer noise should subside on Friday, may 15, 2015, and that repairs should be finished by the end of June.

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Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, said the he and Mr. Hopkins had successfully defended a lawsuit between the City and Metropolitan Edison.

Mayor Panto reported that the Memorial Day Parade would be held on May 25, 2015 beginning at 6th and Northampton Streets at 10:00 a.m., and spoke regarding a request for Proposals for the new Police Station.

Dr. Warner asked how the City intended to pay for the new Police station.

Mayor Panto said that depended on what the proposals showed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence received by Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 12, Amending Ordinance 53, Changing the names of certain streets in the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would change “Meixsell” Street to “Mixsell” to correct a mistake in 1914.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

A memorandum, dated May 7, 2015, regarding City Council Agenda Items, was received from David Hopkins.

Bill 13, Amending Ordinance 3508, was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would convert the 100 block of Bank Street from two-way traffic to one-way southbound, and convert the 300 block of Spruce Street from two-way traffic to one-way westbound.

Bill 14, Amending the 2014 Alpha Building Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

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This Bill would amend the 2014 Alpha Building Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$19,728.86.

Bill 15, Benefits and Compensation for Elected Officials of the City of Easton was tabled on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

A May 5, 2015 e-mail, regarding a Rental Task Force Resolution was received from Dr. Warner.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would create an ad hoc Rental and Building Code Review Task Force to review current City Ordinances pertaining to the Landlord Licensing program, tenant nuisance/quality of life laws, building and construction codes and consider the possibility of adopting a citywide standard lease agreement.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

84-2015

There was a short discussion, between Council members and Mr. Steckman, on how members for the ad hoc committee would be recruited, their duties, and a deadline to present their findings to Council, and the Public Notice to be placed in the newspaper, on the City's Web site, and messages to Community organizations.

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Amendment Supplemental Agreement No. 3900036936A, to extend the time for completion of the City's work on State Route 2022 and 2023.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

85-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the filing of an application for Traffic Signal Approval for a new Traffic Signal on N. Third Street north of Snyder Street at the Lafayette College Arts Campus.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

86-2015

Council made comments and asked questions regarding the type of proposed traffic signal and the use of a sound producing pedestrian crossing control device, which were addressed by Mr. Hopkins.

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Brown, by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Lease Agreement with Northfolk Southern for the leasing of the parcel of land located at the southwest corner of Washington Street and S. 4th Street at a cost of \$3,000 per year.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

87-2015

Mrs. Vulcano asked what that land could be used for if the City did not lease it.

Mayor Panto said that there had been talk about a construction company storing their equipment on it and also a POD storage company had also talked about leasing it.

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the City Administrator to enter into a 3-year agreement, with Constellation NewEnergy, only for the

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price per kilowatt hour for electricity, at a point when he determines it is most financially advantageous for the City.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

88-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would change the title of the Department of Economic Development to the Department of Economic and Community Development and the salary from \$86,964 to \$87,500.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

89-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Edinger and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

There were no remarks from the audience.

The City Clerk informed all in attendance that the May 27, 2015 Council meeting would be held at the Easton Area Community Center, located at 9th and Washington Street.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p. m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk